Promotion of ARIs

†2507. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps that have been taken by Government to promote the rural/ agriculture based industries;

(b) the details of rural industries in the agriculture sector;

(c) the amount allotted by Government to these industries for exporting the products from these industries; and

(d) the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) The Government has been implementing the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), a credit-linked subsidy programme, through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), throughout the country to assist eligible applicants, in setting up labour-intensive industries in the rural areas and small towns with population up to 20,000 and thus generate additional employment. Under this programme, entrepreneurs, including unemployed youth, can establish village industries including agro and rural industries, by availing of margin money assistance from the KVIC and loans from any public sector scheduled commercial bank, for projects with a maximum cost of Rs. 25 lakh.

The Government has also been implementing the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY), in both rural and urban areas with approximately fifty per cent. of the units being in rural areas, for providing self-employment opportunities to educated unemployed youth. This too is a credit-linked subsidy scheme and is implemented through the District Industries Centres of the States and Union Territories, with the loans being provided by banks. Under the PMRY, projects costing upto Rs. 1 lakh for business sector and upto Rs. 2 lakh in other sectors are eligible for assistance, with the subsidy being limited to 15 per cent of the project cost, subject to a ceiling of Rs. 7,500/-. This ceiling is higher at Rs. 15,000/- per beneficiary, in the North Eastern (NE) Region.

(b) The State-wise details of units set up by eligible beneficiaries under the REGP and PMRY during the last three years are given in the enclosed

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement I and II respectively. [Refer to the Statement I and II appended to answer to unstarred question No. 2506]. These units are part of the agro and rural industries sector.

(c) and (d) During 2004-05, a sum of Rs. 1.32 crore was earmarked by KVIC for providing incentive on export of Khadi and Village Industry (KVI) products and for organizing exhibitions abroad. Allocation of funds for this purpose is not made State-wise.

Projects under REGP

2508. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of progress which are under progress under the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) in various States, district-wise;

(b) the amount of funds allocated and spent during each of the last three years, year-wise, district-wise; and

(c) the number of people benefited through this scheme since its inception?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) 209705 projects have been established under Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) up to 31.03.2005 since its inception in April, 1995. District-wise information is not maintained centrally. However, State/Union Territory-wise details of projects set up in the country are given in the Statement enclosed. (*See* below)

(b) Details of Margin Money (MM) assistance provided by the Government through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission for setting up village industries projects under the REGP during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 are as follows:

Sl. No.	Year	MM assistance (Rs. lakh)
1.	2002-03	19371.26
2.	2003-04	26574.46
3.	2004-05	29239.95

District-wise information is not maintained centrally.